

SENATE RESOLUTION 30
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Memphis Zoo upon the arrival of pandas Ya Ya and Le Le from China.

WHEREAS, the Memphis Zoo is committed to broadening the horizons of zoo patrons by providing countless opportunities to see and learn about animals from across the globe; and

WHEREAS, since receiving a letter of intent from officials in China in 1999, the staff of the Memphis Zoo has worked diligently and with great patience to bring two giant pandas, Le Le and Ya Ya, to their park; and

WHEREAS, Memphis Zoo officials served as ambassadors of this nation while working with officials at two zoological gardens in China: the Shanghai Zoological Gardens, home of four-year-old male, Le Le, and the Beijing Zoo, home to two-year-old female, Ya Ya; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Zoo will proudly host the fourth pair of pandas on exhibit in the United States and the ninth pair on exhibit in the world outside of China; and

WHEREAS, Ya Ya and Le Le will arrive in Memphis on April 7, 2003, courtesy of a FedEx MD-11 known as the Panda Express; and

WHEREAS, the pandas will fly in luxury in a temperature-appropriate cabin stocked with a hundred pounds of complimentary bamboo; they will be accompanied by four zoo employees, two representatives from China, three crew members from the National Geographic Channel, a FedEx loadmaster, and two pilots; and

WHEREAS, upon their arrival in Memphis, the pandas will be housed in the zoo's three-acre, \$16 million CHINA exhibit, one of the most technologically advanced habitats in the world; and

WHEREAS, as part of the zoo's ceaseless dedication to the education of zoo visitors, CHINA is unlike any other panda exhibit in the country; rather than basing the exhibit solely around the animal, CHINA immerses each visitor in the history, culture, and wildlife of China, creating a more complete experience; and

WHEREAS, the pandas will join a number of other Chinese animals in the exhibit, including Asian small-clawed otters, white-cheeked gibbons, Pere David's deer, white-naped cranes, and a variety of colorful pheasants and waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, the members of the staff of the Memphis Zoo are proud to provide such an entertaining and educational treat for zoo patrons, but they are also excited to have the opportunity to work with the endangered animals; and

WHEREAS, the staff members hope that their conservation and research will have far-reaching effects on the worldwide effort to save the giant panda, one of the most endangered animal species on the planet; and

WHEREAS, the pandas will be monitored and cared for by "Team Panda," which includes Chief Veterinarian, Mike Douglass; Mammals Curator, Kristi Newland; Assistant Curator of Mammals, Matt Thompson; and John Ouellette, Giant Panda and Field Research Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, this is a proud moment for the people of Memphis and a most impressive accomplishment for the Memphis Zoo and its staff, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate the Memphis Zoo and its staff upon the arrival of Ya Ya and Le Le to the park, commend their commitment to education and conservation, and wish them every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.